

ADDITIONAL ADVICE ON PREPAREDNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH BIRDS AND EXOTIC PETS



From the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

1. If your pet needs a controlled climate, anticipate that power may be disrupted. If you might stay put during a disaster, consider getting a generator. Be sure it is properly maintained. Check regularly (at least once per month) to be sure it starts and keeps running.
2. Make sure you have a sufficient supply of good water. Chlorination (add 10 drops of chlorine bleach to each gallon of water) prohibits bacterial growth in large containers. Store clean water away from sunlight.
3. Birds and exotic pets often require specialty foods. Make sure you know what these are and where you can get them. Note that, although surplus food can often be refrigerated, power supplies are not reliable in many emergencies.
4. Consult your veterinarian to learn if vaccinations are appropriate for your pet, if your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date, and other precautions in order. For example, birds should be tested and free of psittacosis and tuberculosis. (These are serious diseases which are transmissible to many other animals and people.)
5. Do not leave your birds where they can be exposed to fumes from fires or chemicals. Birds are sensitive to smoke and fumes and succumb to these hazards more quickly than most other animals.
6. Do NOT assume that shelters for people will accept animals (except for service animals such as guide dogs), unless a separate emergency animal care center has also been opened nearby. See [Where Can We Go?](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_a9.pdf) on-line at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_a9.pdf>. If possible, call ahead to confirm that you and your pets can be accommodated.
7. Prepare for the possibility that many commercial kennels, hotels, and local animal shelters will be unable to provide the special care that exotic animals require. Even where State emergency animal care facilities are established and have room, your pet will be accepted only if it is properly identified, healthy, and restrained. Place identification tags on your pet and identification tape on all other items.
8. Assemble the following **Pet ID Pack** (one for each pet) in a waterproof package. It should contain:
 - ☐ Proof of pet ownership, such as copies of adoption papers, registration papers, proof of purchase, microchip/tattoo numbers or registry phone numbers. List each animal, indicating its species/breed, age, sex, whether neutered/spayed, color, and distinguishing characteristics.
 - ☐ A recent photo of the pet and its owner.
 - ☐ A copy of the pet's current medical records, including its vaccination history (types of vaccines and dates given), current rabies certificate, important test results, and existing medical problems.
 - ☐ Current prescriptions. List each animal separately along with the name of that pet's medication, the dose and frequency given. Provide veterinary hospital and pharmacy telephone numbers for refills.

- ☐ Contact information for a “buddy”, a reliable friend or relative who lives reasonably far away (for example, in a place unlikely to be flooded under the same conditions as yours).
 - ☐ Any special care instructions, detailed enough for animal care or rescue workers to follow. Record the diet for each animal, including what NOT TO FEED, in case of allergies
9. Keep a copy of this **Pet ID Pack** with you and send a copy to your “buddy.”
10. Assemble the following items in a **Go Kit**, ready to grab and go with you in an evacuation. Label each item with indelible ink:
- ☐ The **Pet ID Pack**, including identification and health records.
 - ☐ A cage, carrier or crate – one for each household pet – large enough for the pet to arise, move about, around, and rest comfortably. Allow room for a food and water dish (and litter pan if appropriate).
 - ☐ First aid kit.
 - ☐ Make sure identification tags or tape are as weather-proof and as securely fastened as possible to your pet and to its carrier, cage, or crate. Include your name, address, and contact information as well as contact information for a “buddy,” a reliable friend or relative far from the disaster site.
 - ☐ At least a three-day supply of food, the kind your pet is used to eating. If your pet eats canned food, have ready a reserve of cans that are small enough for one feeding per can. During an emergency, there may be no way to refrigerate leftovers. Store ready-to-go food in an airtight, waterproof container and rotate the contents at least every three months.
 - ☐ At least a three-day supply of water. Water is even more important than food! To purify water, add 2 drops of chlorine bleach per quart and let it stand for half an hour.
 - ☐ At least a three-day supply of any regular medications.
 - ☐ Three bowls (one for food, one for water, and one spare) for each pet, plus a measuring spoon or scoop to measure or mix food. For cans, pack a manual can opener.
 - ☐ Bedding and litter material (such as a litter box, bagged kitty litter or clean newspaper) sufficient for at least three days.
 - ☐ Pet comfort items such as towels, blankets, or toys.
 - ☐ Plastic bags, paper towels, disinfectant for clean-up.
 - ☐ Flashlights, batteries.

See also:

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), [Preparing Your Pet for Emergencies](#).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), [Caring for Animals](#).

American Red Cross (ARC), [Animal Safety](#).

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), [Disaster Preparedness Resources](#), especially [Disaster Preparedness for Pets](#).

American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), [Emergency Pet Preparedness](#).

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), [Saving the Whole Family](#) and [Disaster Preparedness and Response Guide](#).